

## Grassroots Sport

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Newcastle Swim Team made club history at the 2023 Northumberland and Durham County Swimming Championships



## SWIMMING

NEWCASTLE Swim Team made club history at last month's Northumberland and Durham County Swimming Championships, topping all three competition tables for the very first time.

The event was held at Sunderland Aquatic Centre over two weekends and the club managed a clean sweep of all three trophies available.

Eighty qualifiers aged from 10 to 19 years old raced at the counties, competing in events ranging from the 50m sprint races up to the endurance event of the 1500m free-style.

The team backed up an incredibly strong first weekend of competition with an equally determined and successful second weekend.

The three trophies on offer at each N and D Championships are awarded to the club which tops the age group points table, open age points table and the overall medal tables.

NST won the age group category with an incredible 1552 points, second place going to City of Sunderland on 660 points and third going to Middlesbrough on 572 points.

In the open category, Newcastle took the trophy after amassing 877 points against the second-place

# Water show as NST are triple table toppers

total of 594 by Morpeth and 458 from City of Sunderland, who came in third.

The final trophy up for grabs was the overall medal table, also won by Newcastle Swim Team who ended the two weekends of competition with a fantastic 43 golds, 62 silvers and 52 bronzes.

The City of Sunderland came in second with Morpeth third.

NST head coach Matt Allison said "Newcastle's swimmers have all performed to a high level.

"For the first time ever in the club's history NST have won all

three trophies at the championships.

"A lot of hard work from the swimmers went into this result so I want to say a huge well done to them all.

"A special thank you to the volunteers and parents who support the club and its swimmers throughout both the successful and difficult times.

"It does not go unnoticed and it is always appreciated."

He added: Another thank you goes to the coaching team of Ross Fisher, James Shackleton, Sue Thorpe and Rachel Taylor who have

worked tirelessly to ensure the swimmers are best prepared but most importantly enjoy the challenging sport that is competitive swimming.

"Congratulations to all the other clubs competing at the N and Ds too, it was a fantastic two weekends of racing."

The club is now looking to build on this first competition of the long course season in this year's Junior League competition, the British Championships at Easter and the North East Regional Championships in April and May.

## Challenge is met with a Thunder win

### RUGBY LEAGUE

NEWCASTLE Thunder's Challenge Cup run continued with a 22-12 fourth-round victory at Rochdale Mayfield ALRFC.

However, it was not the best of starts for the Betfred Championship side as they went a score down after just seven minutes courtesy of Sam Wright.

It was a lead which would only last five minutes as Thunder scored their first try of the afternoon through winger Jack Johnson, neatly assisted by stand-off Alex Donaghy.

Jack Miller converted and the tie was level after 11 minutes.

Moments later Thunder took the lead. Following a mistake by Rochdale on the restart, Donaghy and loose forward Connor Bailey combined before playing in winger Alex Young to dot down.

The conversion unsuccessful this time, leaving the tie at 10-6 in favour of Thunder.

Prop Ted Chapelow then barrelled over from close range after Bailey's first attempt was held up.

Miller added the extras and Thunder now had a comfortable 10-point lead.

Thunder add their fourth of the try just before the half-time break, Hull KR loanee Connor Moore diving over on a crash ball and Miller adding the extras.

The hosts crossed in the corner for their second of the afternoon late in the second half, the conversion successful.

## No freedom for title-chasing Burra as they crash to home loss

SECOND-PLACED Burradon and New Fordley missed the chance to close the gap on Bay Plastics Premier Division leaders Newcastle Blue Star following a horror show at home to sixth-place Alnwick Town.

Shipping four goals and seeing red cards, yellow cards and sin bins galore, the hosts fell to a 4-1 defeat - despite being level at the interval when Lee Waugh cancelled out Luke Molly's opener, inside the opening 20 minutes.

After the restart, Ross Straughan gave the visitors the lead for a second time and they never looked back, adding further goals through Joe

### SATURDAY FOOTBALL

Eggleston and a late penalty from Jordan Dobie.

Cramlington United lost 1-0 at Newcastle Independent, Harvey Hills with the only goal.

Killingworth and Newcastle Chemica registered 2-0 home wins against Wallington and Gateshead Rutherford respectively.

The game between Seaton Delaval and Percy Main Amateurs finished in a 2-2 draw, Alfie Livermore with a brace for the visitors.

Stobswood Welfare moved top of the Reeves

Independent First Division following a 5-2 win at home to Whitburn and Cleadon, Adam Shanks and Max Anderson both netting braces for the victors.

Newcastle East End and Willington Quay Saints narrowed the gap on fourth-place Rothbury.

East End defeated Rothbury 2-0 as Jack McNally and Lewis Laidler both scored, while Saints won 4-1 at North Shields Athletic as Mackenzie Sharp scored twice for the victors.

Tommy Wilkinson bagged a hat-trick as his Bedlington side defeated Seaton Burn 3-0 and Hexham saw off FC United of Newcastle 2-1.